



City of San Diego

TREE SELECTION GUIDE

This guide provides information for selecting street trees. Trees are vital part of San Diego's infrastructure, contributing energy savings, filtering Stormwater runoff and enhancing property values. This guide encourages choices compatible with the planting locations, this prevents damage to public improvements and ensures species diversity.

A Few Tree FAQs

Q. What if I want to grow a tree that's not on the list?

A. You may select a tree that's not on the list. Other species may be considered with written approval from the Transportation Department. Email dpotocki@sandiego.gov with your selection.

Q. What about native trees?

A. The City of San Diego encourages the use native trees and highly recommends them for areas where growing space and soil type are conducive to healthy native tree development.

Q. My neighborhood has a Master Street Tree Plan. Does this affect my choice?

A. Tree species must be consistent with the approved Master Street Tree Plans or other applicable documents. These plans have been developed for many communities. Check in the Landscape Standards of the Land Development Code from City of San Diego Development Services before making your selection.

Q. Do I need a permit to plant a tree?

A. All Street Tree plantings require a "NO FEE Street Tree Permit" prior to planting. Call Street Division at (619) 527-7500 to request a permit application.

Q. Who decides what trees go into the Tree Selection Guide

A. Tree selection criteria is developed by the City's Transportation Department/Street Division with input from the City's Community Forest Advisory Board.

Q. How can I find out what a tree will look like before I select it?

A. You can go to selecttree.cagr.calpoly.edu for an online guide complete with photos or you can visit your local nursery to take a first hand look at the tree and get planting tips.

If you have more questions about selecting the right tree for your location, call **(619) 236-8733**.

The following trees are recommended for use in the public right-of-way.

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{In areas with contiguous sidewalks (sidewalks that extend all the way to the curb), trees shall be planted a minimum of two feet from sidewalk. In unimproved right-of-ways, contact the Street Tree Section for more information.}

The following trees are recommended for 3 foot parkways or larger, and 3'x3' cutouts.

SMALL AND UPRIGHT TREES:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	
Syagrus romanzoffianum	Queen Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'griffith'	Griffith Ash	SC	30+	-25	D	Yes	
Lagerstroemia indica*	Crape Myrtle	SC	-20	-20	D/F	Yes	
Pyrus calleryana*	Bradford Pear	SC	-30	-20	D/F		
Bauhinia blakeana*	Hong Kong Orchid	SC	20+	-20	D/F		

The following selections are recommended for 4.5 foot parkways or larger and 5'x5' cutouts.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Acacia baileyana	Bailey Acacia	SC	30+	-20	E	Yes	
Agonis flexuosa*	Peppermint	LC	-30	-20	E	Yes	
Bauhinia purpurea*	Purple Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	D/F	Yes	
Bauhinia v. candida*	White Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	E/F	Yes	
Callistemon citrinus~	Lemon Bottle Brush	U	-25	20+	E/F	Yes	
Cassia leptophylla*	Gold Medallion tree	SC	-30	-25	D/F		
Eriobotrya deflexa*	Bronze Loquat	SC	-20	-20	E		
Eucalyptus erythrocorys	Red Cap Gum	SC	-25	-25	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus torquata*	Coral Gum	SC	-20	-20	E		
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'	Raywood Ash	SC	30+	-25	D	Yes	
Magnolia grandiflora							
St. Marys*	Magnolia	SC	25+	-20	E/F		
Metrosideros excelsus*~	New Zealand Chris.	SC	-20	-20	E/F	Yes	
Prunus cerasifera *	Purple Leaf Plum	SC	25+	-25	D/F		
Pittosporum phillyraeoides	Willow Pittosporum	U	-25	15	E	Yes	
Stenocarpus sinuatus*	Firewheel Tree	U	30+	15	E/F		
Tabebuia ipi*	Pink Trumpet	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Washingtonia robusta~	Mexican Fan Palm	U	40+	20	P	Yes	

Legend

Type

D - Deciduous

E - Evergreen

F - Flowering

P - Palm Species

Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

See last page for Additional Notes

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The following selections are recommended for **5.5-foot** parkways or larger and 5'x6' cutouts.

SMALL, UPRIGHT and LARGE TREES:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame tree	U	40+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Callistemon viminalis~	Bottle Brush	U	30+	-20	E/F	Yes	
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	LC	30+	-40	D/F	Yes	Yes
Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa	SC	30	30	D	Yes	
Chiionanthus retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree	SC	-20	-20	D/F		
Calodendrum capense~	Cape Chestnut	LC	30+	40+	D/F	Yes	
Chionanthus virginicus	White Fringe Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F		
Eucalyptus gunnii	Cider Gum	LC	-60	40	E/F	Yes	
Geijera parvifolia*	Australian Willow	LC	35+	-40	E/F	Yes	
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree	U	40+	-40	D		
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda	LC	40+	-40	D/F		
Melaleuca linariifolia~	Flaxleaf Paperbark	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
Melaleuca quinquenervia~	Cajeput Tree	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	LC	40+	40+	D	Yes	
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian Box	SC	-25	-25	E/F	Yes	
Podocarpus macrophyllus	Yew Pine	U	30+	-20	E		
Pyrus kawakamii	Evergreen Pear	SC	-30	-25	E/F		
Quercus ilex	Holly Oak	LC	-50	-50	E	Yes	
Rhus lancea	African Sumac	SC	-30	-25	E	Yes	
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese Tallow Tree	SC	30+	-25	D		
Tristania conferta	Brisbane Box	LC	-60	-40	E	Yes	

Legend

Type

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Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

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LARGE TREES

The following selections are recommended for **7-foot** parkways or larger and 5'x8' cutouts.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Arbutus menziesii	Madrona	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	Yes
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	Yes
Olea europaea~	Olive "fruitless"	SC	-40	-25	E	Yes	
Platanus acerifolia "Bloodgood"	London Plane	LC	40+	40+	D		
Quercus suber	Cork Oak	LC	-40	-40	E	Yes	

The following selections are recommended for 8-foot parkways or larger.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Silver Dollar Gum	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	White Ironbark	LC	60+	40	E	Yes	
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese Lantern	LC	-40	-40	D/F		
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain	LC	-40	-40	D/F	Yes	
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia	LC	-40	-40	E/F		
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	U	40+	-25	E	Yes	
Pinus pinea~	Italian Stone Pine	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Podocarpus gracilior~	African Fern Pine	LC	40+	-40	E		
Tipuana tipu	Tipu Tree	LC	40+	40+	D/F		

Legend

Type

D - Deciduous

E - Evergreen

F - Flowering

P - Palm Species

Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

The following selections are recommended for **10-foot** or larger parkways and **10-foot** or larger center medians.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Plantanus racemosa***	California Sycamore	LC	60+	40+	D		Yes
Pinus torreyana	Torrey Pine	LC	80+	80+	E	Yes	Yes
Tipuana tipu	Tipu Tree	LC	40+	40+	D/F		

Legend

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LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

Additional Notes

- * Approved for use under power lines and/or Public View Corridors
note: Palm species may also be approved for view corridors.
- ~ Direct Coastal Exposure (Typically 1000' from shoreline)

Minimum Size Canopy = 24" Box

Minimum Size Palm Species = 10' BTH (14' BTH at Bus Stop or Red Curb)

BTH = Brown Trunk Height = height from ground level to live fronds

*** Specific maintenance needs - may require treatment for various ailments

Revised: 3/2003